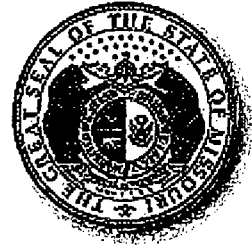




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Rep. Otto says state intervention needed to end landfill fire

Action needed amid heightened safety concerns about nearby radioactive waste

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – State Rep. Bill Otto today called for immediate state intervention to extinguish the underground fire that has been smoldering at the Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill for nearly five years. The fire poses a significant potential hazard to local communities since World War II-era radioactive waste is buried at the nearby Westlake Landfill.

“Every contingency plan put in place by the landfills’ owner to contain the fire has been exhausted,” said Otto, D-Maryland Heights. “It is time for the state to take control of the situation and extinguish the fire as quickly as possible to ensure the safety of the community.”

Otto, whose legislative district includes the landfills and surrounding areas, also called for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to take steps to remove the radioactive materials from Westlake Landfill. In addition, Otto said state and federal officials should consider buyouts for the few homeowners who live within a mile of the landfills, which are owned by Republic Services Inc.

On Aug. 10, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources sent a letter to Republican expressing concerns that the fire could breach existing containment safeguards.

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